

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 311061
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TO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ILO, ELAB, SZ

SUBJECT: US VACANCY ON ILO GOVERNING BODY

REF: GENEVA 12396

1. DEPARTMENT PLEASED THAT DG BLANCHARD UNDERSTANDS IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING GB SEAT VACATED BY US OPEN AT LEAST THROUGH 1978 CONFERENCE. FILLING VACANT SEAT COULD BE MISUNDERSTOOD AS REPRESENTING A JUDGMENT THAT THE US WILL NOT BE REJOINING THE ILO.

2. ADVERSE IMPACT WOULD BE INCREASED IF SEAT SHOULD GO TO EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRY. IN OUR VIEW, ONCE QUESTION VACANT SEAT WAS OPENED, IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO GUARANTEE THAT THIS WOULD NOT HAPPEN, GIVEN THAT SELECTION CRITERIA
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PAGE 02 STATE 311061

FOR NON-ELECTIVE SEATS DEPEND ON DATA SUPPLIED BY MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, WITH NO SYSTEM FOR IMPARTIAL VALIDATION.

3. US REALIZES THAT QUESTION CANNOT BE DEFERRED INDEFINITELY, BUT DG CAN FOLLOW EXISTING ILO PROCEDURES AND STILL DELAY GB ACTION TO FILL US SEAT UNTIL NOVEMBER 1978 GB SESSION. PRECEDENT FOR THIS IS ACTION TAKEN BY GB IN 1953/54 DURING

GB SESSIONS NOS. 122 THROUGH 125, WHEN USSR REPLACED BRAZIL.
IF DG FOLLOWS THAT PATTERN, 205TH GB (MARCH 1978) WOULD ASK

DG TO SUBMIT TO ITS NEXT SESSION NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS FOR
APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS AS REQUIRED BY ARTICLE
7(3) OF ILO CONSTITUTION AND ARTICLE 13 OF GB STANDING
ORDERS. THE 206TH (MAY 1978) GB WOULD APPROVE APPOINTMENTS.
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS WOULD MEET DURING THE SUMMER AND SUB-
MIT ITS REPORT TO NOVEMBER 1978 GB SESSION FOR DECISION.

4. ALTERNATIVELY, CONSIDERATION OF VACATED US SEAT MIGHT
BE DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER 1978 CONFERENCE, SINCE DEBATE ON
ARTICLE 7 IN WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE HAS A DIRECT BEAR-
ING ON THE ISSUE.

5. IN VIEW IMPORTANCE THIS ISSUE TO PROSPECTS FOR US RE-
ENTRY, MISSION SHOULD SEEK OPPORTUNITY FOR FURTHER DISCUS-
SION WITH BLANCHARD PRIOR TO JANUARY 9 MEETING. DEPARTMENT
WOULD LIKE TO BE INFORMED OF BLANCHARD'S REACTION TO OUR
VIEWS, AS WELL AS RESULTS OF JANUARY 9 MEETING WITH GB
OFFICERS. CHRISTOPHER

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